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Q. With so many chemicals in the environment, how can there be no risk?

- A. A Risk Assessment tells us whether or not a certain area is within acceptable risk levels for the intended reuse of the property. In most cases, the substances detected across the Main Installation are not different from those found in background samples from other public places in Memphis. Some compounds found at the Depot are from past pesticide use and railroad operations. Other substances found are those that occur naturally in the environment. People come into contact with substances like these in their daily lives with no increased chance of getting cancer or other health concerns. The Risk Assessment tells us if chemicals are at levels that would increase a person's risk of developing health problems. The present risks are similar to what is found elsewhere in the Memphis area, and are considered to be acceptable for the intended reuse of the Main Installation property.

Q. Why are the risks considered acceptable for workers but not for residents? If people work on the site for 12 hours a day, isn't that the same as living on the property for the same length of time? How would excessive working hours affect the assessment?

- A. Even with overtime or excessive working hours, residents are more likely to be exposed to affected soil than people at work are. The worker exposure scenario looked at workers who would be outside working in and around the soil. Since the Risk Assessment determined it was safe for them, workers who would spend most of their time inside buildings would also be safe.

Q. Did you test outside of the fence lines? If the soil was affected around the inside of the fence, wouldn't they also be affected outside the fence?

- A. During the Remedial Investigation, samples were taken outside the Depot property and throughout the Memphis area. These samples provided important information on 'background' levels, which are levels of certain substances in the soil that are either naturally occurring or the result of traffic, paving, pesticide use or other common urban activities. We also tested sediments in the stormwater ditches outside of the fence lines and found that these areas do not pose any increased risk of health effects. □

Groundwater sampling in Dunn Field community

As part of the Memphis Depot's ongoing cleanup program, additional monitoring wells are being installed and groundwater is being sampled at selected locations on Dunn Field and in neighborhoods around the Depot.

Sampling work on Dunn Field began on October 9. Work in areas near Dunn Field began October 23 and should be completed by mid-November. The off-site locations to be sampled are near the following areas:

- Rozelle and Kyle (south of Person)
- Menager (between Cincinnati and Rayner)
- Northeast corner of Person and Ragan
- Ragan (south of Person)
- Northeast corner of Dunn Elementary School yard

The Depot's contractor, CH2M Hill, is conducting the sampling to monitor the quality of the groundwater in the Depot area. The Base Realignment and Closure

Cleanup Team (BCT) will use these sampling results – as well as sampling data taken since 1998 – during the Dunn Field Remedial Investigation (RI) to help determine cleanup alternatives for the groundwater. The RI is scheduled to be available for public review in the winter of 2001.

A drilling company (Boart Longyear) will assist the sampling team to install the additional monitoring wells and to drill boreholes, which will allow CH2M Hill to gather samples from various depths below the ground surface. The contractors will begin work early in the mornings and continue throughout the evenings to ensure the work is completed as quickly as possible. The contractors will schedule weekend sampling work on the Depot to lessen the possible noise and disturbance to the community.

For more information, please call the Memphis Depot Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613. □

